

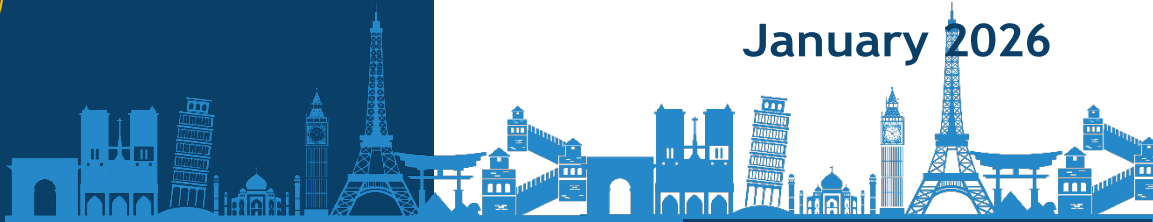


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International Travel and
Hosting Fellowship

January 2026



BREAKING NEWS!

Santa spotted in Hawaii in the off season!



ITHF members Roger and Judi Edmonds travel from Arizona to Hawaii every year on vacation. ITFH member Candy Tsang has a residence in Hawaii, and they reach out to her when they visit.

Roger has his Santa Aloha shirt and a cap which says "Santa is on vacation". Tourists and children like to take photos with him!

Contacts:

Roger and Judi Edmonds, Sun Lakes, Arizona, USA: jedaz@yahoo.com

Candy Tsang, San Francisco, California and Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: tsfoagent@aol.com

Top News

- **BREAKING NEWS!**
Santa spotted in Hawaii in the off season!
- **READY TO HOST!**
- **LAGOS, NIGERIA UNVEILED**
- **ITHF VIRTUAL TRAVEL COMMITTEE**
- **HELP NEEDED**

READY TO HOST



My name is Deepika Unni and I am a Rotarian from the Rotary club of the Nilgiris. I would love to host at my little town in the mountains of South India.

Coonoor, The Nilgiris – A Different India, Woven in Green

Coonoor sits quietly in the Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu, far removed from the bustle most people associate with India. Here, the landscape is a tapestry

of rolling tea gardens, mist-laced valleys, colonial-era bungalows, and forested slopes that change colour with the light. The air is cool, the pace unhurried, and the surroundings deeply restorative.

Tea defines life in Coonoor. Some of South India's finest teas are grown on these slopes, and visitors can walk through working tea estates, meet growers and tea-makers, and experience the journey of tea from leaf to cup. Beyond tea, the region is rich in biodiversity, home to indigenous communities, quiet villages, and scenic viewpoints that open out to endless green.

The Nilgiris offer a completely different side of India—cool-climate, contemplative, and nature-led—where conversations happen over slow meals, long walks, and freshly brewed tea, rather than traffic and timelines.

Contact: Deepika Unni, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, India: munndeepika71@gmail.com





LAGOS, NIGERIA UNVEILED

City of Vibrant Spots Beckons ITHF Members & Tourists!

Lagos, Nigeria's bustling metropolis, is a treasure trove of experiences waiting to be uncovered!

From swanky beaches to cultural hotspots, here's your guide to the city's top attractions:

Beach Time 🏖️

Eko Atlantic Beach offers modern luxury, while Bar Beach provides a chill local vibe. For a nature escape, Eleko Beach is less crowded and perfect for relaxation.

Culture Vibes 🎨

Dive into Lagos' rich heritage at the National Museum Lagos, showcasing history and art. NgaNike Art Gallery spotlights local talent – don't miss it!

Shopping & Food 🛍️

Akiolu Market serves up local goods and eats, while Ikeja City Mall offers modern shopping and foodie delights.

Nature Escapes 🌳

Lagos Zoo is family fun central, and Ajah Mangrove Park offers serene nature walks.

Lagos is calling – come explore!

Contact: *Olurotimi (Sam) Adeleye*, Omole-Golden, Nigeria.
munndeepika71@gmail.com

VIRTUAL TOUR COMMITTEE UPDATE

January 30-31, 2026 - Normandy Virtual Tour presentation

Join us for a virtual tour of Normandy. Nestled in the northwest of France, Normandy is a land of history, culture, and natural beauty. Normandy offers an unforgettable experience to those who take the time to discover it. You will also have the opportunity to meet and make connections with other participating ITHF members. An e-mail with the details about the time for this Virtual Tour and to sign up to participate will be sent to all ITHF members by mid-January. We look forward to meeting you and to enjoy the pleasure of your company.

BECOME A MEMBER

Become an active volunteer member of this Virtual Travel Committee and help us bring the pleasure of visiting and learning about other countries from the comfort of your home, as well as informing our ITHF members about the opportunities for in-person travel that ITHF provides. Any ITHF member who would like to be an active volunteer on this Committee should contact Chair Alicia Ruiz-Orbin by e-mail at: rorbina@ptd.net

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TOUR PRESENTATIONS

- January 30-31 - Normandy - Dwayne Lee
- February 27-28 – Poland. Michal Skup
- March 27-28 – Preparing for your in-person Travel with ITHF Tours. Simmy Ahluwalia
- April 25-26 – Cambodia.- Gabor Karsai

Wishing you health and happiness in the New Year!

For any questions about the Virtual Tours, please e-mail Committee Chair Alicia Ruiz-Orbin at: rorbina@ptd.net



Upcoming Tours and Events

- ITHF Japan Tour, May 11-21, 2026.

More info at

<https://www.ithf.org/events/ithf-japan-tour>

- Traveling to the Rotary Convention in Taipei?

Register for the ITHF Dinner at United Hotel Taipei, June 12, 2026. More info at <https://www.ithf.org/events/ithf-dinner-at-united-hotel-taipei>

- Post Convention Taiwan Cultural Discovery Tour, June 18-22, 2026.

More info and a link to registration at <https://www.ithf.org/events/taiwan-cultural-discovery-tour>

January New Members

- **Ibironke Ogun**, Lagos, Nigeria
- **Dorsey Ridley**, Kentucky, USA
- **Bibby Hildreth**, Georgia, USA
- **Rachel Moses**, Tennessee, USA
- **Kefas Dazang**, Ontario, Canada
- **James Johnstone**, Quebec, Canada

HELP NEEDED-ITHF CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to announce that a team from our ITHF Membership Committee will be taking over the responsibility of publishing the monthly ITHF Connections Newsletter. We would like to thank Sheila Hart for all her efforts as editor of the newsletter over these past years! We will do our best to successfully carry on her work.

We are seeking help from the ITHF members on these two items:

1. **ITHF travel experiences:** Please send us stories and photos from your most memorable ITHF hosting/travel experiences. We would like to publish at least one story per month to encourage ITHF members to engage with other members in hosting experiences.
2. **ITHF members "Ready to Host":** If you are interested in hosting other ITHF members, please send a brief description and photos of a unique attraction or experience available in your area/region. We hope to post at least one "Ready to Host" listing for each newsletter issue.

As before, any ITHF member who submits material which is published in one of these categories will receive an additional year of ITHF membership as thanks for their assistance. Please send your submissions to Andy Ullman, ITHF Membership Chair at andyuco@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your contribution to the ITHF Connections newsletter!

Your ITHF Connections Newsletter Team:

Andy Ullman, Chicago, USA
Michael Chen, Taipei, Taiwan
Olurotimi (Sam) Adeleye, Lagos, Nigeria
Fredri Bochnick, Bonn, Germany

Rosette Nabuuma, Vancouver, Canada
Gizem Bastas, Ankara, Turkey
Nma Onuigbo, Abuja, Nigeria